 ~~12. An axle driving apparatus as set forth in claim 11, further comprising:  
a vertical power input shaft combined with a pump shaft for said hydraulic  
pump, wherein said axle projects horizontally from said housing, so that said axle is  
substantially perpendicular to said power input shaft.~~

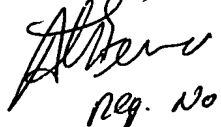
**Remarks**

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 7-12 are pending in the application, with claims 7 and 8 being the independent claims. The subject matter of new claims 8-12 is contained in the application as originally filed. Accordingly, the foregoing amendment does not introduce new matter and its entry is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

 (ALBERT L. FERRO)  
Reg. No. 44,679

for. Tracy-Gene G. Durkin  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 32,831

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600